JUN 16 1961

DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

Vol. X No. 11 May 26th 1961 Price: 15 Pf, 5c, 3d.

EUROPE'S MOST DANGEROUS MAN

West Germany's next chancellor may well be a brash, bullying 45-year-old from Bavaria recently described by the British Labour weekly "Tribune" as "the most dangerous man in Europe".

He is Franz-Josef Strauss, at present West German Defence Minister. Although Strauss might be the prototype for the fat beer-swilling, sausage-eating German as caricatured in the British or American popular press, his growing influence and power belie his burlesque appearance.

Herr Strauss was too young to play a prominent part during the nazi period. He served his Fuehrer and Vaterland faithfully in World War II, but never in a higher rank than lieutenant, and there is no record that he shot hostages, sent people to death camps, or scorched the earth of occupied Europe like so many of his colleagues in high office in West Germany today. His recent record seems to show that he wishes to make up for lost opportunities.

• • •

Born in 1915 into a devout Catholic butcher's family in Munich, Strauss showed such talent in Latin and Greek as a boy that his parish priest helped him get a good education up to university level. He distinguished himself by having a good memory, getting good grades and winning the title of "South German Road Champion" after a 75-mile bicycle race. Before the war he was a member of the National Socialist Motor Corps (NSKK), but such membership was routine.

In 1939 he was conscripted, served in France and then, after special training took part in the attack on the Soviet Union as an anti-aircraft lieutenant. He was one of the few men

at Stalingrad to escape death or capture, but soon froze both feet during the retreat from the Soviet Union. He was then assigned as instructor at an anti-aircraft school in Bavaria, where he gave nazi political orientation lectures. This job lasted until American troops moved in in 1945.

Although Strauss had carefully "discharged" himself and his friends from the armed services one week earlier, he was nevertheless taken prisoner. This is when Franz-Josef Strauss showed first signs of his talent at English and at getting along with American military men. He was soon working as interpreter for the US troops, and several months later US Military Government named him administrator of the small Alpine town where he was living.

From then on, Strauss never stopped climbing the ladder of success and power. His first field of endeavour was Bavaria, where he helped to found the Christian Social Union, sister party to Adenauer's Christian Democratic Union, but he soon moved on to politics on the West German level, especially after he was elected to the first Bundestag in 1949. His base always remained Bavaria, however, and that same year he became general secretary of the Christian Social Union. Early in 1961 he was elected chairman of the party.

In the West German parliament, Strauss made himself so conspicuous and pushy that Adenauer finally made him Minister Without Portfolio in 1953. After more successful use of his elbows in shoving others aside, he was named Minister for Atomic Questions in 1955. But his goal was the Defence Ministry, and that meant easing out Theodor Blank, the rather

insignificant little man who had been given the task of building a West German army. Strauss used every means, fair and foul, to accomplish this; one very effective method was to promote a whispering campaign that Blank's health was on the brink of total collapse.

On October 16th 1956 he finally reached this important career milestone. In 1949 Strauss had said, "Anyone who wants to take up a rifle again should have his hand cut off", but in later years he had completely changed his tune. On March 20th 1958, he told the Bundestag: "The building of rocket batteries in our country is a safety precaution ... We must have a deterrent against the spread of communism. The atom bomb is not immoral. We must place the deterrent effect of atomic weapons for large and small wars at the service of politics."

Strauss's first main job was to build up a big army. Conscription had just been pushed through the Bundestag in July, 1956, and it was Strauss's job to fix military policy, appoint the generals, and prepare the indoctrination and training of hundreds of thousands of young West Germans. Even before his appointment he had firm ideas on this subject, as the following quotations show:

"The Prussian officer is the ideal type of German."

June 29th 1952

"There must be a continuity of tradition between the German soldiers of World War II and the German soldiers of the future. The duties the future soldier will face will be the same as those faced by the older generation of soldiers."

March 14th 1954

As far as is known, Strauss was never a Nazi Party member; but he seemed intent on carrying on the old traditions. He not only admired Prussian officers, but cast aspersions on people who had opposed Hitler. He called one Social Democrat who had fled to England during the nazi era "one of those emigrants who damaged Germany with their BBC broadcasts and were guilty of causing the hate and the spirit of vengeance of the Allies towards the Germans in 1945."

More recently he sniped at Social Democrat Willy Brandt, Mayor of West Berlin, for having left Nazi Germany and opposing Hitler from exile; "We must be permitted to ask Herr Brandt: What did you do during the 12 years outside Germany? We know what we did inside Germany."

"Der Spiegel", April 5th 1961

Had Franz-Josef Strauss done a good job as Defence Minister? The answer is an unqualified "yes" for those who think that western freedom can best be preserved by giving Hitler generals enough weapons to set the world afire. Here is how the American magazine "Time" described his achievements in a largely friendly article on December 19th 1960:

"In four years at the Defence Ministry, Franz Josef Strauss has organized the fastest-growing military force in all Europe. From the foggy shorelines of Flensburg on the Baltic North to Mittenwald on the craggy shoulders of the Bavarian Alps, the old sounds can be heard throughout the day and much of the night, stirring nightmares of the past and mixed feelings about the future. The sounds are the bark of parade-ground sergeants, the whine of fighter planes, the far-trailing echo of strong young voices singing When the Soldiers March Through Town as a paratroop company swings along Franconian roads ...

"Only 15 years after Hitler's death, a new German army has taken its place as the pivot of Western defence in Europe ... the Germans are already the strongest European force on the Continent. In two or three years time, the West German Bundeswehr will match if not surpass in might all the other NATO armies in Europe combined, including the powerful U.S. Seventh Army."

Strauss has accomplished or will soon accomplish three main tasks:

1) The first task is to get leading nazi generals into leadership, not only of the West German forces, but also of NATO as well. At present the Bundeswehr is headed by General Friedrich Foertsch, a convicted war criminal. Under him is Rear Admiral Rolf Johannesson, heading the navy, who once commanded nazi destroyers in attacks on Norway, Poland and in the Aegean; as for the airforce, here is what "Time" says: "Under command of Lieut. General Josef Kammhuber, boss of all German night fighters in World War Two, the Luftwaffe is already airborne and climbing fast."

In NATO, Strauss has Hitler general Hans Speidel as commander of all NATO land forces in Central Europe, a whole string of lesser Hitler generals in NATO headquarters at Fontainebleau, Heidelberg and other centres, and most important of all, he has General Adolf Heusinger, a leading general and close acquaintance of Hitler before 1945, in the key job of Chairman of NATO's top Military Committee in Washington.

2) The second main task is to get atomic weapons for his troops. Up till now, he has been able to obtain rocket launchers and station them all over West Germany, but the atomic warheads are still kept under U.S. control. His aim has been to get these warheads under the control of NATO, making that organisation the "fourth atomic power". Since West

Strauss's Nightmare

"No official has been unhappier than Herr Strauss over the recent suggestion in the United States that a Soviet attack should be met with conventional weapons to obtain a 'pause' in the fighting before any nuclear weapons could be employed. 'It would give me holy terrors', Herr Strauss said recently during a Parliamentary debate on the defence budget, 'if I were to hear that a conventional attack was to be met only with conventional weapons, regardless of how big it is, how long it lasts, and what its political aim is'."

"New York Times", May 15th 1961

Immense Influence

"When the venerable Chancellor goes ... Ludwig Erhard, Minister of Economics, will succeed Adenauer.

"But who will succeed Erhard, a man who, though highly respected, is not generally regarded as politically durable? The man generally mentioned is Strauss. Strauss denies that he has any desire to become Chancellor 'after Erhard'; but wise observers discount this. In any case, there can be no doubt about his immense influence during the next few years."

C. L. Sulzberger, "The New York Times", May 6th

Then & Now

"However, one thing is certain: if we attack them then Russia will be erased from the map within eight weeks."

Joachim von Ribbentrop, Hitler's Foreign Minister in a letter to Italian Foreign Minister Ciano, 1941, "Ciano Diaries", p. 583

"We are living in a technical age in which the combined strength of our allies is sufficient to wipe the Soviet Union off the map."

Franz-Josef Strauss, Adenauer's Defence Minister in a speech at Hollfeld, November 11th 1956

Germany has great power in NATO, that would take him one big step closer to getting the warheads under his own control. At the same time, Strauss's Defence Ministry has been sending experts to work with the French in developing, producing and testing atomic bombs and missiles.

According to "Time", "Whatever the NATO council may decide, Strauss already has the German army in training for nuclear war, using weapons with dummy warheads."

On April 26th, Strauss demanded 12 battalions of Honest John nuclear rockets (range 20 miles), four units of Sergeant rockets (100-mile range), a "greatly increased number" of Matador medium range rockets – the Bundeswehr now has 24 – and "a large number" of Atomic Annie howitzers. Strauss is also trying to get Polaris launchers for the navy.

3) The third task is to get bases, training areas and depots all over western Europe. Here is how "Time" described this campaign in its article on December 19th:

"Finding that the Allies had already preempted the good supply and training spots in Germany, he asked them to give some of their own land for his Bundeswehr. It was hardly the sort of request that French and British politicians leap to fulfill. When answers dragged, Strauss, with typical indifference to political considerations, began dickering for supply and training areas in Franco Spain. A spectacular explosion followed, but Strauss got the results he wanted."

West Germany now has army and airforce bases in France, airbases in Sardinia (Italy) and is arranging for depots and training areas in Britain. It also has footholds of various kinds in other countries like Denmark, the Benelux countries and Turkey.

A hint of what these three Strauss goals can lead to may be gathered from the following two quotations:

"Last year 6,000 German troops, joining U.S. Seventh Army veterans in "Wintershield" maneuvers along the Danube, put on a dazzling show. In one swift swoop, a German armored unit theoretically knocked out a battalion of Seventh Army tankers and infantrymen."

"Time", December 19th 1960

"Every aggressor should know that the echo to the first rifle-shot will be a nuclear and thermo-nuclear explosion."

Franz-Josef Strauss in an Associated Press interview on February 28th 1958.

Strauss has faced opposition to this programme, of course. But he is well-known for the high-handed way he treats all who stand in his way, from the traffic policeman on the corner up to top atomic scientists. In a famous incident, Strauss used all his authority to get a traffic policeman demoted and disciplined for having the nerve to try and make him follow the traffic laws. "I cannot be treated in the same way as any common washerwoman," Strauss asserted.

Strauss likes Panzers and Popsies

In a much more crucial matter, when Otto Hahn, important physicist and Nobel Prize winner, protested against Strauss's atomic war plans, Strauss called him publicly "an old fool who can't keep back his tears or go to sleep nights when he thinks about Hiroshima." Later he commented, "We cannot pay attention to every overimaginative astrologer or social reformer."

Both quotations from "Der Spiegel", April 5th 1961

Strauss has now built up a mighty army which he keeps strictly under his own tight control. Another important stepping stone in his career was his recent election to the chairmanship of the Christian Social Union in Bavaria.

Strauss is now scheming to win the position of West Germany's Chancellor. There is speculation that he will first push out weak Foreign Minister Heinrich von Brentano in the same way that he shoved his way to the Defence Minister position. In this case, he might support Economy Minister Ludwig Erhard as a temporary successor to Adenauer, reckoning that Erhard is already 63, not in good health, and not strong enough to withstand Strauss whenever he wishes to take over full power.

Strauss has never cared what people think of him as long as he has gained in power and position and as long as there is no effective opposition in West Germany. But, for the record, here are some of the opinions on Strauss voiced in recent years:

"Strauss is the man to find support among those groups which are always calling for a strong man. But those circles in the Federal Republic which are especially interested in developing a new democratic way of life are observing the new rise in power of Strauss with scepticism."

Radio Beromuenster, Switzerland

"Yet many people feel that they cannot trust Strauss. His hell-for-leather ways, his quick temper and his unmistakable relish for power brush many Germans, and others, the wrong way."

"Time", December 19th 1960

"Let no-one believe that the western powers can keep this spirit which they have called forth under control! The western countries will settle for Strauss just as long as he pays even more dollars to the Americans, buys airplanes from the British and builds a pipeline in the Sahara for the French. The western powers are not in the least responsible for seeing that parliamentary democracy does not die out in Germany, they have enough worries of their own . . .

"The only question of importance now is whether Franz-Josef Strauss can march even further towards that office which he will hardly ever vacate again without either a war or a revolt."

"Der Spiegel", April 5th 1961

W. German Rag-Bag

Dumb Prosecutor

Three former members of the banned West German Communist Party will go on trial shortly in Lueneberg, charged with illegal Communist propaganda. Public prosecutor in the trial will be Dr Karl-Heinz Ottersbach, who served during the war as public prosecutor at the nazi Special Court in Kattowice, occupied Poland, where he helped to railroad a large number of Poles to death for trifling offences.

The three accused Communists have protested against being prosecuted by this old nazi, stating that they will refuse to answer his questions. The legal authorities of Lueneberg, instead of removing Dr Ottersbach from office, have ruled that he may be allowed to prosecute in the case, but that any questions he may wish to put to the accused will be asked by the assistant prosecutor, who has no nazi record.

•

"Aryanised"

West German Transport Minister Hans-Christoph Seebohm is the official spokesman of the "Sudeten German Association", a powerful right-wing pressure group in West Germany which demands that large areas of western Czechoslovakia should be ceded to Germany. In a biographical article on Minister Seebohm, the liberal West German newsmagazine "Spiegel" noted on May 17th:

"Seebohm's militant anti-Communism, which is so appreciated by Konrad Adenauer, has a material as well as an ideological basis. He can only hope to regain his private property, confiscated in Egerland (Czechoslovakia) in 1945 if the Czech Communists are driven out. This property consists of a share of the Britannia Coal Mines, which passed almost entirely into the hands of the Seebohm family in 1939 as a result of Aryanisation."

•

Tact

The conservative newspaper "Frankfurter Allgemeine" complained on May 13th about the "lack of tact" shown by many politicians in West Germany at a time when the Eichmann trial was in process in Jerusalem. "In the little Lower Saxony town of Gifhorn the town councillors of the Christian Democratic Party, the Free Democratic Party, the Free Democratic Party, the German Party and the Refugee Party have elected Wilhelm Schepmann as Deputy Mayor; Schepmann was formerly Chief of Staff of the Storm Troops. It is true that Schepmann, now district chairman of the Refugee Party, has never been found guilty of any crime, and he is known in his town as a quiet man, but one did not become chief leader of the Storm Troops in the Third Reich for nothing.

"It is even more surprising when one hears that another prominent member of the Refugee Party, Herr Stain, the Bavarian Minister of Labour, has been calling for more 'Lebensraum' (Living Space) for Germany. From Nuremberg we hear from the conference of the Deutsche Gemeinschaft (German Community, a splinter party, ed.) that the chairman of the party, Herr Hausleiter, has been raging about 'show trials like the trial of Eichmann'. In Munich anti-Semitic leaflets have appeared, and in Tutzing, Bavaria, the local council decided unanimously to name a street after General Ludendorff . . .

"For a clever propagandist it would not be difficult to use a listing of such occurences in order to show the strength of right-wing radicalism in the Federal Republic. One cannot really talk of such a thing, but it is obvious that many trusty local groups of many trusty parties are sleeping, or making false concessions, or showing a great lack of tact."

•

Back Again?

West Germany's Christian Democrats plan to make the former prominent nazi Theodor Oberlaender a minister once again, the Social Democratic Press Service reported on May 15th. Oberlaender resigned his post as West German Refugee Minister on May 4th 1960 after being sentenced to life imprisonment in absentia by the Supreme Court of the German Democratic Republic for mass murders committed during the war.

The Social Democratic Press Service stated: "It is stated in Christian Democratic circles that Oberlaender's name has been put on the list of future ministers. His friends have already seen to it that this debatable figure has been demonstratively elected chairman of the 'Oder-Neisse' branch of the Christian Democratic Union, and now they are pressing for his 'full rehabilitation'.

•

Suppressed

The West German Government has suppressed a report on neo-nazism in West Germany prepared by the American B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League, the liberal West German weekly "Spiegel" reported on May 17th. The American report stated that former nazis were to be found everywhere; some had only been nominal nazis; some had changed their minds; others were still nazis at heart.

The B'nai B'rith delegation had toured West Germany as guests of the government, and in other similar cases the reports of such delegations were published in full in the West German Government Bulletin, "Spiegel" stated. The B'nai B'rith report had been suppressed, however.

•

Silence Preferred

In the Eichmann trial in Jerusalem the name of nazi official Hans Globke, today personal assistant to West Germann Chancellor Adenauer, was mentioned for the first time on May 12th. The prosecution submitted a nazi document to the court showing that on January 15th 1941 Hans Globke, then a leading official in Hitler's Ministry of the Interior, had attended a top-level nazi conference discussing the seizure of Jewish property and the cancellation of German citizenship for Jews.

A West German Government spokesman, asked about the news from Jerusalem, stated:

1. Herr Globke was at present on holiday in Portugal, and could not be reached for comment.

2. Globke had attended the conference in January 1941, but had not spoken.

3. Herr Globke had nothing to do with the problems dealt with at this nazi conference.

Commenting on the official West German claims that Dr Globke had remained in office throughout the nazi period in order to work more effectively as a resistance fighter, the conservative West German newspaper "Die Welt" commented on May 6th:

"It would be better to be silent on this subject. It is hard to convince the Israelis that Globke's signature on the decrees on racial discrimination was an act of resistance."

PARENTS & KINDERGARTEN

By Allen Mann

We had met other parents and nodded "Good morning" or "Good afternoon" when bringing our 4-year-old son to the new kindergarten in East Berlin or fetching him home again at 5.30. But the parents' meeting was the first time we got better acquainted with them and with the staff and learnt something of the methods used to keep 125 3—6 year olds contented, educated and disciplined, as well as possible.

We were all very grateful that we had managed to get our offspring accepted here in the first place. The other two kindergartens in the neighbourhood were housed in made-over apartments and therefore not nearly so roomy and pleasant. The parents of 250 children were on the waiting list for our kindergarten; my wife and I had put our son's name on the list ten months before the opening date and were therefore among the lucky ones.

The kindergarten, a newly-completed two-storey building, has a still-unfinished lawn and playground surrounding it. Inside, the three youngest groups are downstairs, and a broad staircase with two banisters — one at adult level, the other for the children — leads to the rooms for the four older groups. Each group has its own room, with a well-trained teacher and one helper. The rooms are fitted out with jolly curtains with animal designs, colourful lamps and decorations, masses of toys, miniature tables and chairs and collapsible cots for the mid-day nap. The children also have some picture assigned to each of them — a toy truck in our son's case — so they can recognise their wardrobe hook and the place for their towels, washcloths and combs.

On that particular evening the miniature chairs were most significant for us. They are grand for the kiddies, but very small and hard for someone of rather large bulk to sit on for a whole evening. But then, the meeting was worth it.

The head of the kindergarten started by telling us some of their aims and methods. When the kindergarten opened a few months earlier, the first job had been to get the children adjusted to eating together, taking their midday naps regularly, playing games and becoming a little community. Since many had been spoiled in various degrees and in different ways by their parents, it meant bringing them all to one common level in each age group; eating properly with a spoon in one or with knife and fork in the other, dressing and undressing, washing and combing themselves as well as possible at their age and in general, learning some self-discipline. We could verify gratefully that this had borne at least some fruit with our very volatile little four-year-old.

Another main point involved arts and crafts. Each of the mothers (and those fathers who came) was shown a folder with the art accomplishments of her particular child — pasted ladders, painted houses and things of that sort. Each was duly impressed by the progress of the little son or daughter. In addition, the oldest two groups were being prepared for school. They received little notebooks and were taught which was the front and which was the back and they practiced painting rain or suns in a way which would make it easier to learn to write the following autumn. Since most of the older group will go on together to their first year in the nearby school, it is felt that the change-over (at six-seven years) will not present many adjustment problems.

The kindergarten teachers had also begun with gymnastics once a week. Simple calisthenics, games with medicine balls and climbing over a horizontal bridge make the children more adept and get them ready for sport lessons at school. A sidelight has been that my son insists that I practice his gymnastics with him on Sundays; thus, even the parents profit from this innovation. At present the kindergarten is trying to get the use of the school gymnasium, which would be better than the more cramped kindergarten corridor. But since the school children need their gymnasium almost constantly, only the oldest two kindergarten groups have been able to get used to doing their exercises on such a grand scale thus far.

Another little problem involves animals. The head of the kindergarten would like the children to learn to get along well with animals, but this is not so easy in the city. Aside from feeding stations for the birds in winter, the first attempt at a solution has been to buy two little hamsters, which promptly began to multiply. During the warmer months trips to cooperative farms on the city's outskirts are planned, and the children will then get better acquainted with cattle, sheep, pigs, chickens and other animals.

The children are also taught not to bully the members of the younger groups. This is accomplished partly by little visits from one age group to another, and also by having the older children launder the doll's suits and dresses for the younger group, thus engendering a spirit of cooperation.

We were also told that the kindergarten wishes to buy its own little Punch and Judy puppet show (known as Kasperle Theater in Germany) but had decided to let the children pay for this themselves and thus begin to learn a little about the value of money — as something which must be earned. The children are doing this by helping to bring in empty bottles from home, and we were asked to cooperate in this venture.

This was not the only request to us parents. We were also urged not to give the children sweets with their daily sandwiches and fruit, for this caused jealousy and quarrels. We were also requested to pick up and deliver our offspring promptly every day, so as not to upset the day's schedule. And lastly, we were requested to pay our monthly fee on time. This point started a rather long discussion on what to do with parents who neglected this. Some said draconically: One or two warnings and then bar them from using the kindergarten. Most parents rejected this and decided instead to hang up near the door a list of names of all those who did not pay within a certain extended deadline.

I should mention here that the fees are low enough so that nonpayment is never due to inability to pay. The children are cared for, receive a daily midday meal and milk or cocoa in the morning and afternoon, receive occasional presents or sweets at

Christmas, Easter, on their birthdays and other occasions, * are supplied regularly with clean towels and flannels — all this and other advantages for only 10 or 11 marks a month (and less for large or lower-income families). This is about four hours' wages for an average worker; but it must be remembered that priority in the long waiting lists are always given mothers who work, so that in almost all cases both parents work. Clearly, no-one has financial difficulties paying for the kindergarten. Main costs for constructing and maintaining the building and paying its staff of 19 women (and a janitor) are carried by the government. It ist administered by the city.

Before the first parents' meeting closed, the parents elected representatives to a sort of parents-teachers group. This was done as fairly and democratically as possible considering the fact that most did not know each other as yet. The elected parents will watch over conditions in the kindergarten, take up any problems or complaints, and organise help whenever necessary — for example, getting us to volunteer a few hours and help landscape the surrounding playground.

After the main meeting was over, we went to the separate group rooms where we could ask questions about the progress or problems of our own little hopefuls. Then we went home, aching rather from the little wooden seats but certainly interested and satisfied and quite grateful that we had managed to get our son enrolled here. There are more than 8000 kindergartens in the GDR — in every town and neighbourhood at least a few — but like most good things in the GDR, demand is still a long way ahead of supply.

Foot in Mouth

"The role of films in East German efforts to denigrate the West German Government (in England) is emerging more clearly ... Most striking example of penetration was a year ago, when the BBC, apparently unwittingly, included with a programme of West German films one called 'Roses for the Public Prosecutor'. It was one of the East German Film Corporation's productions vilifying the West German judiciary."

"Sunday Telegraph", London, May 15th

GERMAN REPORT comments: A fine bit of reporting, with only one error: "Roses for the Public Prosecutor" is a West German film.

Peaceful Atoms in the GDR

By Heinz Schliffke

Naturally enough, there is a great deal of interest in the development of atomic energy and its future meaning for humanity. But it is not often realised that the doors to the atomic age have long been open wide and that we have already taken many steps along these new paths. That is not only true in other countries, but also in the German Democratic Republic, where we use atomic energy in research, industry and agriculture.

We made the first hesitant steps in using radioactive isotopes about the end of 1955 in medicine and agriculture. But the first real foundation for the peaseful use of atomic energy was the construction of the Central Institute for Nuclear Physics in Rossendorf near Dresden; the first 2000 Kilowatt research reactor went into operation on December 16th 1957 and the 25 million electron volt cyclotron began operation on August 1st 1958.

At present, the GDR's first atomic power plant is being built at Rheinsberg north of Berlin. It will be provided with a reactor and a set of turbines capable of generating 70 megawatts of electricity. That is enough to provide power for three cities the size of Potsdam (about 100,000 population), but of course this first plant will mainly serve to gain experience.

But the primary use of atomic energy at present is isotope technology, the use of radioactive isotopes for a wide variety of purposes. In Rossendorf, largely in the reactor, 117 different radioactive isotopes are produced (now called nuclides by more and more scientists). That is about 65% of the total of varieties offered on the world market, which means that we are in fourth place in the world in this respect. This is a very satisfactory result considering that we have been working in this field for a relatively short time.

These isotopes are used in four main ways in our industry; gamma-defectoscopy, thickness gauging, the use of radiation relays and work with tracer isotopes.

Gamma-defectoscopy is a method of testing industrial products with radio-active isotopes. Materials used for this process, like Cobalt 60 or Iridium 192, radiate gamma rays, and help detect pockets of slag or other defects in castings, welds or inside various kinds of machine parts. As in X-ray photography, the rays are radiated through the metal object and onto a film.

Gamma-defectoscopy is being used in 15 factories in our republic, most efficiently in three large engineering plants in Magdeburg. The main advantages of this method over X-rays are that much thicker metal can be tested (up to 6.3 inch steel) and that no electric current is needed. The testing equipment is small and easy to handle and is always ready for use.

Not all plants which could make good use of this method have realised its value. One plant in Leipzig, for example, found defects in spur-gears it had made at great cost for coal excavators. The defects meant a loss of 22,500 marks, half of which could have been avoided by using Gamma detectors.

Another important use of radioactive isotopes is in gauging thickness. Before this method, there had been no way to measure the thickness of paper during production, to cite just one example. But the radioactive isotopes permit continuous measurements without touching the paper, and may be coupled with an automatic thickness regulator.

In our republic there are about 25 such gaugers in use, controlling thickness of paper, metal foils and in a few cases textile materials. The equipment is produced by the Zeiss works in Jena and the Vakutronic plant in Dresden.

By the end of 1965, 70% of all paper machines in the GDR should be equipped with this equipment. Its installation costs 240,000 marks, but results in an average yearly gain of 250,000 marks.

Radiation relays can be used in a multitude of ways. They may test how full various containers are, especially in cases like poisons or acids or where the contents are under pressure, so that other methods are impossible. Another such possibility is testing the level of bulky uneven goods, as in coal bunkers.

The process is relatively simple. On one side of the container a radiation source with a radioactive isotope is attached, and the intensity of its radiation is measured on the other side. According to the degree of this intensity, an electric signal is transferred to a relay, which sets further regulators into operation. This permits increasing or decreasing the supply of additional material.

Another possible use of radiation relays is in lignite mining, where coal trains frequently pass the stop signals and cause considerable damage. A radiation relay system would stop the trains automatically when they come to a stop signal.

Another important field is the use of tracer isotopes, often called marked atoms. These are used to determine how certain substances are distributed in chemical processes and in testing how quickly materials are worn away.

One method recently publicised in the press was useful in the Stalinstadt blast furnaces, where radioactive isotopes (Cobalt 60) were enclosed in the furnace lining at different places. Isotope traces showed up in the iron as soon as the furnace lining had been worn away, thus indicating the proper moment for installing a new lining. Other isotopes have been used as tracers in the chemical industry in the Bitterfeld Electrochemical works.

Of course, radioactive isotopes cannot be used everywhere and in every industrial process. Their use is only justified when they bring real economic advantages. In the future, more and more new ways will be found for using them in improving technology and production quality. But there are still many factories which have overlooked the great advantages to be gained from this important sector of atomic energy.

Condensed from an article in "Neues Deutschland", May 4th 1961

GDR Consulate in Syria Starts Chain Reaction

The Government of the United Arab Republic granted permission to the GDR in mid-May to open up a consulate in Damascus, capital of the UAR's Syrian region. This move set off a series of angry repercussions in Bonn and in the West German and West Berlin press.

The West German Ambassador in Cairo, Dr Weber, protested immediately to the UAR government, government spokesmen said they were "disturbed and surprised" at the decision and the press threatened that promised West German credits for the construction of a dam on the Euphrates River might be withheld. UAR Vice-President Boghdadi was scheduled to visit Bonn to discuss terms of this credit in June but many newspapers called for rejecting both the visit and the credit.

The GDR has long had a trade mission in Damascus and has had a consulate-general in Cairo since 1959; what excited West German government circles was that with the new consulate the GDR's representatives would be on equal diplomatic footing with the West Germans in Damascus. This meant another defeat in Bonn's long campaign to isolate the GDR diplomatically from the non-socialist countries.

In a comment on this campaign on May 15th, "The Times", London, stated:

"The decision of the UAR is yet another demonstration of the highly contestable Hallstein doctrine, according to which the Federal Government refuses to have diplomatic relations with any country recognizing the east German regime. In spite of this doctrine, the east Germans have managed to set up a network of missions, often diplomatic in all but name, in a number of countries. On the other hand, west Germany has been prevented through it from returning to normal relations with the iron curtain countries, notably with Poland, and the field in that respect has been left entirely to east Germany with unfortunate results particularly in regard to propaganda."

Cairo's answer to the West German protests has been to state that "threats are not an effective means of exerting pressure on the UAR" and to point out that she would not permit other countries to tell her what political measures she could undertake.

In the meantime, Karl Gaile, head of the GDR's trade mission in Damascus, has taken on the new job of consul.

Rabbi Honoured on Birthday

Rabbi Martin Riesenburger, only Jewish religious leader in Berlin to outlive nazi death camps and mass murder, was awarded the GDR National Order of Merit in Gold on the occasion of his 65th birthday on May 14th. Rabbi Riesenburger has been the rabbi of East Berlin's small Jewish community since shortly after the war.

After becoming a rabbi in April 1933, several months after Hitler's rise to power, he did whatever he could to help or hide Berlin's Jews, 55,000 of whom were sent to their death in Auschwitz and other camps.

Rabbi Riesenburger has also received a number of other high GDR honours in recent years for his active participation in the campaign for world peace.

Spain and Portugal Welcome Erhard

Professor Ludwig Erhard, West German Economics Minister, paid official visits to Spain and Portugal in mid-May. The "friendly talks" with leaders of the two Iberian governments were to discuss future financial help from West Germany. According to newspaper reports in the three countries, Bonn will supply much of the aid which has hitherto come from the United States, while bringing Franco Spain closer to the Common Market and NATO. Much of the aid will help suppress the struggle for independence in the two countries' African colonies, especially in Portugal's battles against the Angolese.

Rabindranath Tagore Strasse . . .

The city government of East Berlin honoured the 100th anniversary of the birth of Rabindranath Tagore, great Indian poet, by naming a street after him. This was in addition to the many lectures, articles and meetings honouring Tagore in East Berlin and other parts of the country.

. . . and Lumumba Strasse

At a large ceremony attended by many German and foreign students, the street in Leipzig where the Foreign Students Institute is located was re-named Lumumba Strasse. A monument to the murdered Congolese leader is being erected next to the institute.

Correction

Portrait of the Artist as a Very Young Man

Due to a typographical error, Josef Brueck, the artist described in "Profile of an Artist" in our last issue, was listed as being born in 1942. He was actually born in 1924.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

It was perfectly right and proper for nazi courts to sentence people in occupied Europe to death for listening to the BBC, according to the West German authorities. Nazi judges who pass death sentences in such cases are the right and proper people to be judges in West Germany today.

Let me give you the facts of the case. In 1942 a German judge named Dr Heinrich Julius Hallbauer, member of the Nazi Party and the Storm Troops since 1933, was transferred to the Central Criminal Court in Prague, occupied Czechoslovakia. On September 8th 1942 he sentenced Josef Bezouska to death for listening to news bulletins on the BBC; in the following two years he passed about a dozen further death sentences for such offences as trying to avoid being sent to Germany as a slave labourer, or concealing food from the German forced collections.

Immediately after the war, the Czech authorites put Dr Hallbauer on their list of war criminals (No. S-8/32). But Dr Hallbauer had "disappeared", and could not be surrendered by the allied occupation authorities in Germany.

In March 1960, the Czech Association of Resistance Fighters discovered that Dr Hallbauer, after promotion by the West German authorities, was happily back at work again in Hamburg Criminal Court. The Czech Resistance Fighters sent details of the case to the Social Democratic Government of Hamburg Province, and received the reply that the case would be investigated.

Last month, the Czech Resistance Fighters received another letter from Hamburg. It stated that the investigations had been completed, and that Dr Hallbauer would continue to occupy his post. "The death sentences to which you drew attention have been thoroughly examined from a legal point of view" the letter said. "This investigation has shown that the verdicts are juristically correct: this is in particular true with regard to the death sentences."

Which means, of course, that the West German legal authorities recognise the full validity of the utterly inhuman nazi legislation and the sentences passed as the result of this legislation. If Eichmann had only taken the trouble to get a "legal" nazi court to pass a "legal" death sentence on all the Jews of Europe (and there was nazi legislation which would have made this possible) then he would be, in the eyes of such West German jurists, a man without a stain on his character.

It is perhaps worthy of note that the entire West German press has ignored the story of the rehabilitation of war criminal Dr Hallbauer.

* * *

Just incidentally, while I am on the subject of nazi judges back on the bench, reliable news has just reached me from a reliable Social Democratic source in West Germany that the British Government was not quite satisfied with the routine brush-offs which it received from Bonn a few months ago when it enquired whether there was any substance in "East German propaganda charges" that a large number of former nazi judges who had imposed thousands of terrorist death sentences were back on the bench. You may recall that Labour M.P.s asked a number of questions about the matter in the House of Commons.

Spurred on by these Labour questions, the British Government asked Adenauer's Government for the facts. Bonn replied that it was all just propaganda. Someone in the British Foreign Office was not quite so sure, and initiated an investigation outside normal diplomatic channels. The unofficial investigators reported back that the lists of "hanging judges" published in the German Democratic Republic had not been correct in all particulars: some of the judges had died in the meantime; others had retired; there were a few cases of mistaken names being given; and in a number of cases the evidence of criminal activity was insufficient. But, the unofficial investigators said, there remained between 50 and 70 cases in which, even under the stringent provisions of English law, a prima facie case of murder would appear to be established.

This "unofficial" official report disappeared into a pigeon-hole in the Foreign Office, and these 50 to 70 murderers continue to administer law in West Germany. Perhaps a few more questions in the House of Commons would help to get the report out of its pigeon-hole.

* * *

Does your heart bleed for German aristocrats who are deprived of the pleasure and privilege of using the little word "von" in front of their names? Probably not, but the members of the West German Parliament are all upset about it. Although there is an immense backlog of legislation to be got through before parliament breaks up this summer to prepare for the September general election, representatives of the three main parliamentary parties, including the Social Democrats, have agreed to find time to pass a special law rehabilitating the truncated aristos in their rights.

Although the monarchy was abolished in Germany in 1918, the vast majority of German aristocrats still proudly (and legally) flaunt their titles. Only exception are the "Baltic Barons" from Estonia; an Estonian law of 1920 cancelled all titles there. In the course of World War Two, the Baltic Barons flocked "Home to the Reich", and of course resumed their titles.

Some bureaucrat with nothing better to do discovered in 1953 that this was illegal, and the Von Schmidts found themselves just plain Schmidt again. As the West German newsmagazine "Spiegel" commented, "particularly diplomats on overseas service were hard-hit by this ruling."

For some years, the legal beagles of the West German Republic were stumped by the problem. The titles of aristocracy had been abolished quite legally by the legal and acknowledged Estonian state, and there seemed to be no way in which German courts could cancel a foreign enactment. The easiest way out would have been to en-noble all those affected once again, but there was no longer any Kaiser around to wield a sword and say "Arise Sir von Pumperknickel" or whatever the formula was.

But you should never underestimate the cunning of a lawyer; a bunch of Baltic Baron lawyers worked out a fine argument, which went like this: the majority of the aristocrats in Estonia in 1920 were people of German blood; therefore most of the people affected by the Estonian anti-title law were of German blood; therefore it was an anti-Germanic law; therefore it was a repressive law, and need not be recognised in West Germany.

And on these lines the parliamentary bill was drafted, and will soon be rushed through parliament. What the moral of all this is, it would be hard to say.

Edited and published fortnightly by John Peet. Democratic German Report, Friedrichstrasse 167/III, Berlin W 8, Telephone 22 29 68. Printed in Germany by (204). Veröffentlicht unter Lizenz-Nr. 694 beim Presseamt des Ministerpräsidenten der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik.